THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wildlife in the country

673. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wildlife in the country is on the brink of extinction;

(b) whether the strength of the tigers in the forests which was about 40,000 a few decades ago has been reduced to 1500; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to protect the wildlife in general and the tigers in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Fluctuation in population of wild animals is a natural phenomenon. However, there are no specific reports available with this Ministry to indicate that the wildlife in the country is on the brink of extinction.

(b) As per the findings of the recent all India Estimation of tiger using refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pug marks owing to several shortcomings in the latter.

(c) The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife including tigers are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife conservation including wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.

2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been constituted for strengthening tiger conservation by, *interalia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, constitution of State level Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

3. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife. It includes 36 Tiger Reserves which have been established with focus on tiger conservation.

4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.

5. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz. -Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant*, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats including tigers.

6. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

7. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

8. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

9. Intensive patrolling in sensitive protected areas is carried out alongwith coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

Tiger Parks

674. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tiger parks in the country are facing financial crisis for their upkeeps;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the hotels near the tiger parks have to pay for conservation of tiger parks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to generate more revenue for the upkeep and maintenance of the tiger parks and other wildlife sanctuaries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended in 2006 to provide enabling provision under for establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation by the States to facilitate and support management of tiger reserves for conservation of tiger.

Terror activities in Afghanistan

†675.SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to deploy the Indian Army to check the increasing terrorist activities in Afghanistan;

(b) whether Government of Afghanistan has sought military assistance from Government of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is no proposal with Government to deploy Indian Army personnel in Afghanistan.

Undemarcated boundaries in Indo-China border

676. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.